

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. **(Canceled)**

Claim 2. **(Previously Presented)** A network system as set forth in claim 52, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary relating to charging for a transaction of said content,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content, and

said transaction management means has a charging processing means for carrying out processing based on said information relating to charging every time content delineated by said boundary is newly substantially acquired by said data utilization means.

Claim 3. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by said boundary is content for which a predetermined property right is set,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to said property right of said content, and

said transaction management means has a property right management means for carrying out processing for updating a property right of content acquired based on said information relating to said property right every time content delineated by said boundary is newly substantially acquired by said data utilization means.

Claim 4. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which at least delineated into a range for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to authorization for substantial acquisition of said content of said data package, and

said transaction management means has a transaction authorization means for carrying out processing for authorization of transactions to control said substantial acquisition of said content based on said information relating to authorization of transactions when said data utilization means attempts to newly substantially acquire content delineated by said boundary.

Claim 5. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which at least delineated into a range

relating to charging and for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content, and

said transaction authorization means carries outs said processing for authorization of transactions based on said information relating to charging when said data utilization means attempts to newly substantially acquire content delineated by said boundary.

Claim 6. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 5, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which is at least delineated into a range owned by a predetermined owner and for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to ownership of said content, and

said transaction authorization means of said transaction management means carries out said processing for authorization of transactions based on said information relating to ownership when said data utilization means attempts to newly substantially acquire content delineated by said boundary.

Claim 7. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which is at least delineated into a range which has value as a creative work and for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to a copyright of said content, and

said transaction authorization means of said transaction management means carries out said processing for authorization of transactions based on said information relating to said copyright when said data utilization means attempts to newly substantially acquire content delineated by said boundary.

Claim 8. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 7, wherein:

said information of said predetermined attribute of said data package includes information designating said transaction authorization means for carrying out processing relating to authorization of substantial acquisition and

said transaction authorization means is provided on any node on the network and is driven by being called up by said transaction management means based on said information designating said transaction authorization means.

Claim 9. **(Previously Presented)** A network system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the substantial acquisition of said content in said data utilization means

includes acquisition of said data package and use of said content based on information relating to control for utilization of said content included in said attribute data.

Claim 10. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

said information relating to control for utilization of said content included in said data package has information for control of said content from the node in which the content exists to the node of the data utilization means and

further provision is made of a transmission means for transmitting said content to said data utilization means through said network based on information for controlling said transmission when the data utilization means has requested substantial acquisition of said content.

Claim 11. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

said data package has, as its content, time series continuous data existing on any node on said network and has, as information for control for utilization of said content, information for control of transmission of said time series continuous data to said data utilization means,

provision is further made of a transmission management means generated on any node on the network for managing the transmission of said time series continuous data based on said information relating to control for utilization of said content when said data utilization means requests substantial acquisition of said time series continuous data,

a transmission means generated by said transmission management means on the node where said time series continuous data exists for acquiring said time series continuous data and transmitting it in a predetermined transfer format, and

a reception means generated by said transmission management means on the node where said data utilization means exists for receiving data transmitted by said predetermined format and supplying it to said data utilization means, and

a desired location of said time series continuous data is transmitted to said data utilization means and said data utilization means substantially acquires said transmitted time series continuous data through said transmission means and said reception means based on the control of said transmission management means.

Claim 12. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said information relating to control for utilization of said content includes information designating a processing means for utilization of said content and all, some, or one of information on a type of the content, a property of the content, restrictions on utilization, owner, creator, type of content, and type of service.

Claim 13. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 12, wherein said data package further includes information relating to the nature of the content itself.

Claim 14. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 13, wherein any information of said information of the data package is information referring to information substantially existing in another data package.

Claim 15. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 14, wherein said data package substantially has part of information substantially existing in said other data package.

Claim 16. **(Previously Presented)** A network system as set forth in claim 15, wherein further provision is made of:

a reference request generating means for generating a reference request for referring to the entity of said data when said data utilization means utilizes information of said data package referring to another data package and

a management means for managing information on nodes in the vicinity of any node on the network for any such node and for searching for a destination of reference by successively propagating said reference request to nodes which may substantially connect with the node of the designation of reference of said reference request.

Claim 17. **(Original)** A network system as set forth in claim 16, wherein further provision is made of a data package disposal means for managing, for said data package, the state by which information of said data package is referenced from other

data packages and managing the disposal of said data package based on said managed state.

Claim 18. **(Currently Amended)** A data distribution method in a network system having a plurality of connected nodes for suitable distributing any content as a transactable product, comprising the steps of:

~~sending through the network~~

producing a data package, which includes data relating to a transaction which is composed of content materials and/or references to content materials and the attribute data which define an attribute of said data relating to the transaction;

~~a data package (information package), which includes the data relating to a transaction and the attribute data which defines an attribute of said data relating to the transaction, wherein the data and the attribute data included in the data package are located in a boundary, the boundary is set in accordance with an attribute for the transaction and the data relating to the transaction in order to define the scope of data to be used for the transaction, when the data package is transmitted through the network,~~

~~supplying the package which includes data of said content as said data relating to the transaction through the network in accordance with the boundary which is set on the basis of the data package to be supplied by a data server means,~~

~~receiving the data package by a data utilization means connected to at least one node on the network, substantially acquiring at least the content in accordance with the boundary by said data utilization means, and~~

~~carrying out predetermined processing relating to the transaction on the basis of said attribute data of the predetermined attribute for the transaction of the content each time the content delineated by the boundary is newly substantially acquired by the data utilization means~~

and in which the data relating to the transaction, and the attribute has a format defining a boundary in accordance with an attribute for the transaction and the scope of data to be used for the transaction

supplying the produced data package through the network;

receiving the supplied data package

utilizing the supplied data package in accordance with the boundary of the received data package; and

processing relating to the transaction on the basis of the boundary of the data package every time the data package is received.

Claim 19. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 18, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary relating to charging for a transaction of said content,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content, and

said predetermined processing relating to a transaction includes charging processing based on said information relating to charging.

Claim 20. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 19, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by said boundary is content for which a predetermined property right is set,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to said property right of said content, and

said predetermined processing relating to a transaction includes processing for updating a property right of content acquired based on said information relating to said property right.

Claim 21. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which at least delineated into a range for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to authorization for substantial acquisition of said content of said data package, and

said predetermined processing relating to a transaction includes processing for authorization of said substantial acquisition of said content based on said information relating to authorization of transactions when said data utilization means attempts to newly substantially acquire content delineated by said boundary.

Claim 22. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 21, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which at least delineated into a range relating to charging and for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content, and


said processing for authorization of substantial acquisition of said content includes processing carried out based on said information relating to charging.

Claim 23. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 22, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which is at least delineated into a range owned by a predetermined owner and for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to ownership of said content, and

said processing for authorization of substantial acquisition of said content includes processing carried out based on said information relating to ownership.

 Claim 24. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 23, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which is at least delineated into a range which has value as a creative work and for which substantial acquisition has been authorized by an authorization,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to a copyright of said content, and

said processing for authorization of substantial acquisition of said content including processing carried out based on said information relating to said copyright.

Claim 25. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 24, wherein:

said information of said predetermined attribute of said data package includes information designating said transaction authorization means for carrying out processing relating to authorization of substantial acquisition and

said processing for authorization of substantial acquisition being carried out by a transaction authorization means provided on any node on the network being selectively called up based on said information designating said transaction authorization means.

Claim 26. **(Previously Presented)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 25, wherein the substantial acquisition of said content in said data utilization means includes acquisition of said data package and use of said content based on information relating to control for utilization of said content included in said data package.

Claim 27. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 26, wherein:

said information relating to control for utilization of said content included in said data package has information for control of said content from the node in which the content exists to the node of the data utilization means and

said data package is transmitted by transmitting said data package including said content to said data utilization means through said network based on

information for controlling said transmission in accordance with a request for substantial acquisition of said content by said data utilization means.

Claim 28. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 27,
wherein:
said data package has, as its content, time series continuous data existing
on any node on said network and has, as information for control for utilization of said
content, information for control of transmission of said time series continuous data to
said data utilization means,


a transmission management means for managing the transmission of said
time series continuous data based on said information relating to control for utilization of
said content is generated on any node on the network when said data utilization means
requests substantial acquisition of said time series continuous data,

a transmission means for acquiring said time series continuous data and
transmitting it in a predetermined transfer format is generated on the node where said
time series continuous data exists, and

a reception means for receiving data transmitted by said predetermined
format and supplying it to said data utilization means is generated on the node where
said data utilization means exists, and

a desired location of said time series continuous data is transmitted to said
data utilization means through said transmission means and said reception means
based on the control of said transmission management means.

Claim 29. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 28, wherein said information relating to control for utilization of said content includes information designating a processing means for utilization of said content and all, some, or one of information on a type of the content, a property of the content, restrictions on utilization, owner, creator, type of content, and type of service.



Claim 30. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 29, wherein said data package further includes information relating to the nature of the content itself.

Claim 31. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 30, wherein any information of said information of the data package is information referring to information substantially existing in another data package.

Claim 32. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 31, wherein said data package substantially has part of information substantially existing in said other data package.

Claim 33. **(Previously Presented)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 32, wherein:

said information substantially existing in said other data package generates a reference request by which said data utilization means refers to the entity of said data and

a network management means provided for any node of the network for managing information on nodes in the vicinity of any such node successively propagates said reference request to nodes which may substantially connect with the node of the designation of reference of said reference request.

Claim 34. **(Original)** A data distribution method as set forth in claim 33, wherein:

the state by which information of said data package is referenced from other data packages is managed for said data package and

an unnecessary data package is suitably disposed of based on said managed state.

Claim 35. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A computer readable recording medium on which a data package for distribution of any content as a product for transaction in a network through which a plurality of nodes are connected is recorded and which can be read by a computer substantially connect to the network,~~

on which

a data package for distribution of any content as a product for transaction in a network through which a plurality of nodes are connected

is recorded and

which

can be read by a computer substantially connect to the network,

wherein

said data package includes the data relating to a transaction

~~having the content as a transactable product and the attribute data which~~

~~defines~~ define an attribute of said data relating to the transaction;

and

~~an attribute of the control for utilization of the content,~~

~~wherein~~

~~the data and the attribute data included in the data package are located in
a boundary,~~

the data relating to the transaction and the attribute has a format defining
a boundary in accordance with an attribute for the transaction and the scope of data to
be used for the transaction;

~~the boundary is set in accordance with an attribute for the transaction and
the data relating to the transaction in order to define the scope of data to be used for the
transaction, when the data package is transmitted through the network~~

the boundary is used for utilizing the data package and processing relating
to the transaction of the data package; and

the data relating to the transaction is composed of content materials
and/or references to content materials.

Claim 36. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 35, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary relating to charging for charging processing carried out each time content delineated by said boundary is substantially transacted,


said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content and used for said charging processing.

Claim 37. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 36, wherein:

the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by said boundary is content for which a predetermined property right is set so as to perform processing for updating a property right of content acquired based on said information relating to said property right every time content delineated by said boundary is substantially transacted and

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to said property right of said content and used for processing for updating said property right.

Claim 38. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 37, wherein:



the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which at least delineated into a range for which substantial transaction has been authorized by an authorization so as to perform processing for authorization of said transaction when the content delineated by said boundary is to be substantially transacted and

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to authorization for substantial transaction of said data package and is used for the processing for authorization of said transaction.

Claim 39. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 38, wherein:


a boundary relating to charging is set as the boundary set in the data package giving a content at least delineated into a range for which substantial transaction has been authorized by an authorization and

information relating to charging for the content is included as the information relating to authorization of said transaction included in said data package.

Claim 40. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 39, wherein:

a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content owned by a predetermined owner is set as the boundary set in the data package giving a content at least delineated into a range for which substantial transaction has been authorized by an authorization and

information relating to the owner of said content is included as the information relating to authorization of said transaction included in said data package.

 Claim 41. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 40, wherein:


a boundary whereby the content delineated by the boundary is content which has value as a creative work is set as the boundary set in the data package giving a content at least delineated into a range for which substantial transaction has been authorized by an authorization and

information relating to the copyright is included as the information relating to authorization of said transaction included in said data package.

Claim 42. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 41, wherein:

said information of said predetermined attribute of said data package includes information designating said transaction authorization means provided on any node on the network, operating by being called up, and carrying out processing relating to authorization for substantial transaction.

Claim 43. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 42, wherein the substantial transaction includes acquisition of said content and acquisition of said content and use of said content based on information relating to control for utilization of said content.



Claim 44. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 43, wherein said information relating to control for utilization of said content included in said data package includes information for control of transmission of said content from the node on which said content exists to said data utilization means through said network when the medium is read by a computer connected to the network.

Claim 45. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 44, wherein said data package includes time series continuous data as its content and information for control of transmission of said content from the node on which the content exists to said data utilization means through said network when the medium is read by a computer connected to the network.

Claim 46. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 45, wherein said information relating to control for utilization of said content includes information designating a processing means for utilization of said content and

all, some, or one of information on a type of the content, a property of the content, restrictions on utilization, owner, creator, type of content, and type of service.

Claim 47. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 46, wherein said data package further includes information relating to the nature of the content itself.

Claim 48. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 47, wherein any information of said information of the data package is information referring to information substantially existing in another data package.

Claim 49. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 48, wherein said data package substantially has part of information substantially existing in said other data package.

Claim 50. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 49, wherein said data package further has a region which is referenced when said data package is to be disposed of in which the state of information of said data package being referenced by other data packages is recorded.

Claim 51. **(Original)** A computer readable recording medium as set forth in claim 50, wherein said region in which the state of being referenced by other data packages is recorded is provided as a header of said data package.

Claim 52. **(Currently Amended)** A network system for suitably distributing any content as transactable product, comprising:

one or more data server means and utilization means, and transaction management means comprised on the network system,

wherein

 ~~said data server means and utilization means transmit and receive through the network system~~

~~a data package which includes the data relating to a transaction and the attribute data which define an attribute of said data relating to the transaction, wherein the data and the attribute data included in the data package are located in a boundary, the boundary is set in accordance with an attribute for the transaction and the data relating to the transaction in order to define the scope of data to be used for the transaction, when the data package is transmitted, through the network system,~~

~~said data server means supply the data package which includes data of said content as said data relating to the transaction, through the network in accordance with the boundary which is set on the basis of said data package to be supplied,~~

said data server means transmits to said data utilization means a data package (information package) which includes data relating to a transaction which is composed of content materials and/or references to content materials and the attribute data which define an attribute of said data relating to the transaction;

said data server means produces the data package in which the data relating to the transaction and the attribute has a format defining a boundary in

accordance with an attribute for the transaction and the scope of data to be used for the transaction, and supplies the produced data package to said utilization means through the network;

Full said data utilization means ~~receive~~ receives the supplied data package, and ~~substantially acquire said data of said content in accordance with the boundary,~~ and utilizes the supplied data package in accordance with the boundary of the received data package; and

said transaction management means perform processing relating to the transaction on the basis of ~~said attribute data included in said data package every time said data package is received by said data utilization means~~ the boundary of the package every time the data package is received said data utilization means.
